

THE MORNING NEWS

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Ministry for Youth launches YOU(th) Shine Campaign during carnival



Cooperating agencies involved in YOUth Shine



Minister Croes, Paga Tino Group and YOUth Shine spokespersons



Ivy Simon and Minister Croes

ORANJESTAD -- After the elections of September 2013, tradition required Incumbent Prime Minister Eman, re-elected for a second term, to form a new government. In

doing so, there was a shift among Aruba's various ministries and ministers, creating agencies dedicated to groups and issues which the newly elected government felt required attention. One of them is dedicated to Aruba's adolescents, teens and young adults, presided over by the newly appointed Minister of Social Affairs, Youth Policy and Labor, Paul Croes.

On Thursday afternoon, January 6, Minister Croes welcomed the volunteers and staff of various NGO's to unveil the ministry's concerted campaign to encourage talent, caution, high aspirations, and most importantly, self-esteem, in island youth and those on the cusp of adulthood, titled "You(th) Shine."

The program is being launched during Aruba's 60th anniversary Carnival, tying into the concept that youngsters should also "shine like a diamond." This entails being conscientious of caring for their health, avoiding the use and abuse of controlled substances and alcohol, as well as exploring and developing their talents and interests.

Three roll models for the diverse program are also well known carnival figures. Vocalist and former Carnival Youth Queen Hilyann Croes, Aruba's 50th Youth Queen from 2013, Edylenne Tromp, and the Children's Carnival Queen of 2013, Kiziah Trimmon.

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Turkey F16 scrambled to foil Sochi hijack attempt

ISTANBUL (AFP) - Turkey scrambled a jet fighter Friday to force down an airliner from Ukraine after a would-be hijacker on board ordered it to Sochi where the Winter Olympic opening ceremony was underway. Turkish officials said.

Turkish media reported that a Ukrainian man brandishing a detonator tried to gain access to the cockpit of the Airbus A320 aircraft operated by Turkey's Pegasus Airlines.

He was overpowered by security forces after the airliner landed at Istanbul's Sabiha Gokcen airport.

"A Pegasus Airlines plane with 110 people on board had to land at Sabiha Gokcen airport because of a passenger who threatened passengers

with a bomb," said Habib Soluk, deputy Turkish transport minister.

"We are sure that he didn't enter the cockpit. We know that the aircraft was hijacked before it entered Turkish airspace," he said.

The aircraft departed from Kharkov, Ukraine for the scheduled flight to Sabiha Gokcen.

When the man tried unsuccessfully to get in the cockpit, the pilot emitted a hijack alert and the Turkish F-16 military jet was scrambled.

The head of Turkey's main pilots' union said: "I received confirmation that everyone on board is okay and that the plane is fine. I know the pilot... he is experienced and I am sure everything is fine."

US diplomatic chats safe, State Department says

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Secret US diplomatic conversations are safe, a top official said Friday, despite the apparent bugging of an American envoy's phone.

Asked if she was confident about the security of diplomatic communications, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki replied: "Certainly we are."

"We do indicate and make clear when there are concerns about when information can be tapped. So we're cognizant of this. We're aware of this. And we are constantly taking precautions and updating our approach."

She revealed that data encryption is given to all State Department employees for their government-issued BlackBerry mobile phones.

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ATA hosts stupendous event for Super Bowl



Just recently the Super Bowl was celebrated in the US and the Aruba Tourism Authority also participated at the pre-event. This was the 8th annual Beach Bowl which was visited by several celebrities. They converted New York City into a gift lounge in a sand bar. Here they served unique cocktails for those present. In this manner visitors could have felt something of the adventure of a visit to our island. At the scene they had a flatscreen TV showing images of our lovely island, while celebrities enjoyed our unique cocktails.

All visitors could have chosen from 5 different cocktails prepared by our own "mixologist" AJ Tromp. Every cocktail made and presented had a unique name chosen and adapted to the drink, as well as being accompanied by a particular story.

The creative names were: Conchi Cosmo, Guadirikiri Cave Cooler, Hadicurari Windy Sour, Mangel Hal-torita and Eagle Bellini. AJ taught everyone how to make

the cocktails while sharing its link to Aruba and the name of the cocktail.

To create even more attention to what is happening on



Aruba, all those present representing Aruba came dressed in white. This was to show off the so-called "Little White Dress Night" which takes place on Aruba every Monday evening. AJ was dressed in white with a black apron with the Aruba logo. Each celebrity received an apron while preparing their



cocktails.

Among the celebrities visiting the bar were: Cole Hauser (2 Fast 2 Furious), Meghan Markle (Suits), Mike Golin (ESPN TV), Mike and Mike, Jessie James (Pop singer), Daryl Johnston (NFL analyst), Serena Williams (No.1 Tennis player), Jermaine Dupri (music producer), Peter Facinelli (Twilight Saga), Parker Young (actor) and Alicia Quarles well known producer of E! News.

The event received a great deal of attention from bloggers, written and televised programs such: USA Today, OK! TV, E! and Fox 5 News New York, as well as CBS New York and CBS Los Angeles. What was so interesting about this event was that it was an integrated effort by different media sources to create more "buzz" for Aruba. On Friday before the Super Bowl a flyer reporting on Aruba was distributed, which resulted in the creation of more than 270 stories online. The event created more



than 9.5 million impressions in the social media.

The decision to invite celebrities was a strategic decision focused on the many followers they have on the social media, which resulted in increasing Aruba's presence on the social media and maximizing the coverage of Aruba.

There are currently billboards in Manhattan with advertisements of Aruba, as well as the landing page in Aruba.com showing a video of images during the event and recipes of how to make the cocktails.

Photos show celebrities such as Serena Williams, Cole Hauser and Jessie James and our 'mixologist' AJ Tromp.

Ministry for Youth launches YOU(th) Shine Campaign

Continued from pg 1

Though launched now, and incorporating the Diamond Jubilee Carnival theme, the program is far-reaching in scope and schedule. Several government agencies and NGO's are collaborating under the umbrella of "You(th) Shine." Some already have existing programs, such as the Aruba Anti-Drug Foundation (FADA) with their Paga Tino (Pay Attention!) campaign regarding substance abuse, and Family Planning, which teamed with the "Love My Body" program, which educates regarding safe sex and the pitfalls of teenage pregnancy. Quota Club of Aruba has been conducting annual campaigns regarding protecting one's hearing, and President of Quota, Ivy Simon, presented earplugs to Kiziah Trimon, as a reminder that children are particularly vulnerable during carnival to losing their hearing from the loud music.

Other foundations, service

clubs and NGO's that will be participating in the program are Mary Joan Foundation, New Balance Foundation, Sonrisa, Foundation for our Community, Women's Club of Aruba, Respetami Foundation, YMCA, ATHA, and Aruba's Department of Culture, aside from various agencies within the Ministry of Social Affairs. Their coordinated efforts will be directed towards events and activities that develop talents and appreciation for creativity and the arts, sport, spiritual development, studiousness, the community and environment.

Minister Croes explained that this administration feels it is imperative they provide guidance for the next generation, the leaders of the future, in developing their talents, harboring respect for and being involved with their community, healthy in body and mind, and making wise decisions while living lives of purpose and productivity.

By Rosalie Klein

Hospital dietitians have important nutrition tips for Carnaval parades



ORANJESTAD — This year, Aruba's Carnaval season is a bit longer, with longer routes during parades accommodate all the groups participating and the anticipated increased number of spectators. The Horacio Oduber Hospital dietitians wish to share some valuable tips to observe while spending long days in the sun, participating in or observing these events.

Proper nourishment is very important during these events, especially for children and the elderly. Be sure to partake of a meal at the start of the day, before leaving the house, preferably of non-fat food, such as a sandwich with a drink or corn-flakes with milk.

Mrs. Geraldine Jean-Baptiste-Tromp and Mrs. Angelique Salsbach of the Dietetic Department at the hospital place great emphasis on hydration, nutrition and protection for the most vulnerable among the community, namely the children, elderly and individuals with chronic diseases, like diabetes. Do not stay long hours without eating or drinking, especially if you are standing in the heat and sun.

A person who does not stand still uses a lot of energy, sweats and sheds fluids. It is advisable to drink copious amounts of liquid, preferably water. For nourishment, it is advisable to have 'grab and go' food. It is easier, and the food stays fresh for a longer period, especially when standing in the sun and/or a hot environment. The dietitians recommend 'cereal bars', 'crackers' and sandwiches that do not contain meat or mayonnaise. If you are planning to take perishable food, than keep it in a cooler with ice.

Other tips are:

- Wear fresh, light colored clothing that protects you against the sun.
- Use a sun block
- Take the sun block

with you to apply a few times during the parade

- The use of a hat is advisable.

- In case a person regularly uses 1 or more medications, take them according to the doctor's prescription, either before leaving the house, or have dose with you to take at the prescribed hour

Mrs. Salsbach and Mrs. Jean-Baptiste-Tromp recommend all diabetic s to inform one or more persons in their group about their condition, in case they need help. Heat and movement, with the resulting perspiration and loss of fluids, and/or drinking alcohol can lower the sugar level. This can be avoided by combining alcohol with snacks that contain readily digested carbohydrates like a sandwich, cereal bar, etc.

The Horacio Oduber Hospital team wishes everyone a safe and happy Carnaval season.

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Cas Animal Cont'd

Do you know this dog?



Cas Animal Refuge.

Anyone familiar with the dog and its owner are asked to please contact Kirsten at 742-8732 so he can be returned. Until then, he is safe at her sanctuary. If the owner is not found, he is a lovable, healthy candidate for adoption. The sanctuary also has a new crop of adorable puppies who are desperately in need of good homes, for anyone who wishes to start out the 2014 right, with a new, devoted friend.

Presently, Cas Animal has everything in place to embark on its ultimate mission: the construction of Aruba's first,

strictly no-kill dog shelter. The facility will house close to 300 dogs, plus cats and have an onsite-clinic. It has been designed to run on renewable energy and be wholly sustainable. Until then, Kirsten has converted her home into a temporary sanctuary. Presently, she cares for around 50 dogs she has rescued, with the ever-present hope of placing them in good homes. Whether they are adopted or not, she will continue to care for and love them, despite lost limbs from accidents, or a missing eye. They have a happy life and the companionship they

crave. With only a few bureaucratic kinks to iron out, construction should begin early this year.

Anyone who may be interested in adopting a dog can, even if you are not an island resident. Call Kirsten at 742-8732 and she will help you through the process of acquiring the papers and a carrier needed to take home one of our sweet, affectionate cunucu dogs, who make excellent watch dogs, too. As this story demonstrates, this is done regularly and many happy owners find great pleasure in being reminded every day of Aruba by the loving new companion.

The medical and feeding costs of rescued animals is never ending. Those wishing to support Kirsten's work with donations can do so in the form of payment to the Cas Animal Foundation account at the Contreras Veterinary Clinics, call: 587-0917. Donations can be made directly to the foundation's account: Cas Animal Foundation, CMB Bank account # 25762110. Kirsten maintains an animal ambulance, and be contacted to report a dog in distress.



Aruba's 60th Carnival

Mary Joan Foundation's Queen Election is tonight!



Mary Joan Foundation invites the whole community tonight to club Caiquetio for their 2nd Carnival Queen election. Organisers promises a magical and creative evening. All seven candidates are being sponsored by different companies whose business is based on creativity and beauty. There is also going to be a lot of surprises.

The Mary Joan Foundation gives their support in different ways to those who are fighting or have won their battle against breast cancer. All participants on stage tonight have or are going through this experience.

Mary Joan gives group support and also organizes social activities.


The candidates gracing the

stage tonight are:

1. Omayra Werleman (sponsored by Trash By Ronchi)
2. Soraya Rios (sponsored by K&G)
3. Beatrix Tromp (sponsored by Grand East)
4. Rosa Wernet (sponsored by Vice Versa)
5. Mima Tromp (sponsored by Curves by Sharincka Boutique)
6. Maricella Trimon (sponsored by Shannon's Boutique)
7. Jacqueline Kwidama (sponsored by Backstage)

Tickets are available by the candidates or at the door from 6:30 p.m. on.

The Mary Joan Foundation extends a special invite to the whole community to come and show your support for these strong women.



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Minister meets PTA group from Colegio San Nicolaas



This past week, Minister of Education, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar had her first encounter with the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) of the Colegio San Nicolaas. The Minister is of the opinion that involving parents in the education of our children is essential to the success of students. The Minister had a very pleasant meeting with the members of the group which calls themselves the Comma. The Minister indicated that there will be many more encounters with the group in the future. She believes that all stakeholders in education should be involved in the educational process.

During her encounter with the parents she expressed that it is important for parents to support what is happening at school. It is important to integrate what is taking place at school in the life at home, because the educational process does not stop when the child leaves school and goes home.

To have parents as good partners in the educational system is something that the Minister is intent on promoting. She believes that the parents' role is crucial in the

success of each student.

The major concern of the Comma group is that the school needs better teaching facilities.

As the first HAVO/VWO public school of San Nicolaas, the school was very successful and popular from the moment it opened as a public school two years ago. The school is growing and needs the option to expand its facilities.

Several other points were discussed with the Minister, some were already resolved, others must be discussed with the school, and still others will require getting together to solve them.

The Minister remarked that she was very pleased to meet with the group. She indicated that they are working on creating a system, a sustainable structure for maintaining contact with parents. This is especially so for schools where there is no parents commission. The Minister's team will continue talking to the different groups and seek to resolve whatever challenges there are of the different schools.



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Aruba's Weather Update



WEATHER:

MOSTLY SUNNY AND NO SIGNIFICANT RAINFALL IS EXPECTED.

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE 30 CENTIGRADE / **MINIMUM TEMPERATURE** 25 CENTIGRADE.

SUNRISE 07:04 AM / **SUNSET** 06:44 PM.

WIND:

FRESH TO STRONG WINDS DIRECTION EAST AVERAGE 18 KTS GUSTING UP TO 35 KTS.

GENERAL SITUATION:

A HIGH PRESSURE AREA OVER THE ATLANTIC OCEAN WILL GAIN STRENGTH AND REMAINS DOMINANT FOR THE COMING DAYS ITS RESPONSIBLE FOR FRESH TO STRONG WINDS DURING THE WEEK-END.

WEATHER IS GENERALLY DRY BUT SOMETIMES SPORADIC RAINCLOUDS MAY CROSS OUR AREA AND CAN CAUSE A SHORT SHOWER MAINLY AFTER MIDNIGHT AND EARLY MORNING HOURS. THE RAINFALL AMOUNT IS NOT SIGNIFICANT.

MARINE CONDITIONS:

WAVE DIRECTION WILL BE NORTHEAST WITH WAVE-HEIGHTS BETWEEN 6 TO 9 FEET.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE WEEKEND AND THE BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK: WEATHER MOSTLY SUNNY. CHANCE OF A LOCAL SHOWER OF SHORT DURATION MAINLY AFTER MIDNIGHT AND IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS. TRADEWINDS WILL STAY FRESH TO STRONG. TEMPERATURE WILL FLUCTUATE AROUND NORMAL.

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Dutch have high hopes as Winter Olympics open

The opening ceremony for the 2014 Winter Olympics took place on Friday evening with short track skater and European champion Jorrit Bergsma carrying the Dutch flag.

Ter Mors is the first Dutch woman to lead an Olympic team since snowboarder Nicolien Sauerbreij in 2002.

She competes in the short-track 500 metres on Monday but will also take part in the 1,500 metres long-track event.

Some 30 of the 41 strong Dutch squad were in the procession, but not medal hot favourites Sven Kramer, who takes to the ice on Saturday, or Irene Wüst.

Ice queen

Wüst, defending 1,500 metre champion, is once again a favourite for the 1,500 and 3,000 metre race and has already been dubbed 'queen of the Olympics'.

'It was the same before so I'm used to it. I like to be favourite. It makes me want to do even better', she told

the Dutch media earlier. After an injury scare in Inzell two weeks ago, Wüst is confident: 'I have no bumps or bruises and I'm ready to go.'

Kramer, the world record holder in the 5,000 and 10,000, will be hoping to avenge his disqualification in the 2010 Vancouver games 10,000 metres which came

after his coach told him to change lanes at the wrong moment.

Kramer will be the first Dutch speed skater to spring into action on Saturday, not the best of starting positions as competitors Jorrit Bergsma and Jan Blokhuijsen will then have a clear time objective to beat.



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Toyota halts Venezuela production at its only assembly plant

CARACAS (AFP) - Toyota is halting production at its only assembly plant in Venezuela because the world's largest automaker lacks the hard currency to import parts due to government controls, a factory official said Friday.

The temporary shutdown of the Japanese car maker's operations in the western city of Cumana is to begin February 13 and last at least six weeks.

"We are going to close initially for 45 days in hopes that we will be granted the foreign currency needed to import auto parts," a source in Toyota Venezuela's management told AFP.

In a statement to its workers obtained Friday by AFP, the company said the lack of parts was "critical," and that the shutdown would affect not only production but all but essential administrative business.

The plant produced nearly 9,500 vehicles in 2013.

Companies such as Toyota must go through a complex bureaucratic process to obtain dollars.

Venezuela is only providing dollars at the official rate of 6.3 bolivars to the dollar to importers of designated priority goods such as food and medical supplies.

Others who need dollars to pay overseas bills have to buy them at a higher rate at government-run auctions. Many companies have com-

plained Caracas is not providing them with enough hard currency.

The currency controls have led to shortages of a wide range of basic necessities, and fueled an inflation rate that reached 56.2 percent last year.

The Venezuelan Automotive Chamber says automobile production fell to 296 vehicles in January, almost all produced by Toyota.

Last year, 72,000 vehicles were made in Venezuela, down more than 30 percent from 2012.

GM's Barra mightiest woman in global business: Fortune

NEW YORK (AFP) - The new head of General Motors, Mary Barra, has driven straight to the top of Fortune's first list of the most powerful women in global business.

Barra, a career veteran at GM, became chief executive of the largest US automaker in mid-January, the first high-profile female CEO in the male-dominated auto industry.

Barra "is not the type of boss who ever thought she'd be featured in Fortune, let alone sit atop the magazine's Most Powerful Women in global business ranking," Fortune said late Thursday.

Barra has shown "low-ego finesse and the courage to shake things up," it said.

As GM boss, Barra, 52, leads a company of more



than 212,000 employees working in 396 facilities in six continents. The company, which went through a government-led bankruptcy reorganization in 2009, emerged from partial government ownership in late 2013.

Fortune's 50 most powerful women in business list emphasized executives who

oversee an international operation.

"By pushing into new territories and inspiring women in their home countries, these globetrotters are, quite literally, taking on the world," it said.

American women filled eight of the top 10 slots. Number-two was Ginni Rometty, the 56-year-old chairman, CEO and president of technology giant IBM.

She was followed by Indra Nooyi, 58, at PepsiCo in third place.

Ranked between fifth and ninth, in order, were Ellen Kullman, 58, of DuPont; Irene Rosenfeld, 60, at Mondelez International; Lockheed Martin's Marillyn Hewson, 60; Hewlett-Packard chief Meg Whitman,

57; and Patricia Woertz, 60, at Archer Daniels Midland.

The boss of Brazilian oil giant Petrobras, Maria das Gracas Silva Foster, 60, was fourth on the list. Gail Kelly, 57, head of Australian bank Westpac, came in 10th place.

Just missing the top 10 was Sheryl Sandberg, 44, the chief financial officer of social media giant Facebook, who ranked 11th.

She was followed by Phebe Novakovic at defense and aerospace company General Dynamics, Safra Catz at software firm Oracle, and Marissa Mayer, the 38-year-old head of Yahoo.

In the 15th spot was Alison Cooper, the British CEO of Imperial Tobacco and the first European on the list.

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Brazil doctors convicted in organ trafficking scheme

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Two doctors have been sent to prison in Brazil for selling contraband organs to the United States as part of a suspected trafficking scheme, law enforcement officials said Friday.

The two men, Celso Roberto Scafi and Claudio Rogerio Carneiro Fernandes, are both urologists who practiced medicine in the southeastern state of Minas Gerais.

But officials allege they also were part of an organ-trafficking "mafia" in which kidneys, livers and other organs and body tissues were illegally removed from patients, some of whom were still alive, and sold.

The men were convicted at a trial in February 2013 but appealed to a higher court, which upheld the lower court's verdict.

The men were immediately remanded into custody and are being held at a prison in the town of Pocos de Caldas, some 500 kilometers from the state capital of Belo Horizonte.

A judge in the case last week sentenced the men to prison terms of 17 and 18 years, according to news reports. Their licenses to practice medicine also have been revoked.

Authorities said a search was underway for a third physician in the scheme, anesthesiologist Sergio Poli Gaspar, who failed to turn himself in to authorities and is considered a fugitive from justice.

The case dealt with a 10-year old boy, Paulo Veronesi Pavesi, whose organs were removed without permission and sent to the United States after his accidental death in a fall.

Online press freedom eroding: watchdog



NEW YORK (AFP) - US mass surveillance, restrictive legislation and a wave of global cyberattacks drastically restricted online press freedom during 2013, a New York-based media watchdog warned. The Committee to Protect Journalists has for the first time included cyberspace on its list of countries because of what it called "the profound erosion of freedom in the Internet".

"Violence and repression continue to be the greatest threat to journalists worldwide, but online censorship and massive state surveillance are also disrupting the global flow of information," said CPJ executive director Joel Simon.

The Internet is a vital platform for journalists around the world to carry out their reporting and publish their stories.

Simon said government censorship and monitoring from China to Iran had grown more sophisticated and "online repression has increased."

He also held the United

States accountable, however.

"While the Obama administration has championed online freedom, the NSA spying program has undermined global confidence in the Web as a means of independent expression," he said.

US intelligence leaker Edward Snowden last year sent shockwaves around the world by revealing the extent of electronic surveillance by the National Security Agency.

CPJ said the countries where press freedoms had deteriorated the most in 2013 were Egypt, Bangladesh, Syria and Vietnam.

It also included Ecuador, Liberia, Russia, Turkey and Zambia -- "nominal democracies where the space for free expression and independent newsgathering is rapidly shrinking," it said.

CPJ said the countries on its "risk list" are countries where it had documented the worst deterioration of freedoms during 2013.



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White House hits back at Republicans on immigration 'trust'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House Friday hit back at Republican claims that a long delayed overhaul of America's immigration system is stalled because President Barack Obama cannot be trusted to carry it out.

Republican House Speaker John Boehner on Thursday poured cold water on hopes that an immigration bill could finally pass this year, saying that his restive conservative caucus did not have confidence the president would implement any legislation.

But the White House said such an accusation was simply a cover for Boehner's inability to corral his members behind a push for immigration reform that Republican leaders see as

vital to repairing ties with increasingly important Hispanic voters.

"If it were an issue of trust, why did Republicans block immigration reform in 2006 when the occupant of the White House was Republican president George W. Bush?" Obama's spokesman Jay Carney asked reporters aboard Air Force One.

"Was it because they didn't trust him?"

"I think no -- I think the issue is because of the well known and documented challenges dealing with this issue presents the Republican Party."

Boehner said on Thursday that the president's vow to go around Congress to use executive powers to implement his political program if lawmakers refuse to cooperate with him had harmed trust in the White House.

Republicans also argue that adjustments the president made to his signature health care law also raise doubts over whether he could be trusted to properly carry out the requirements of an immigration reform bill.

The White House counters, however, that the president had done more to enforce America's southern borders -- the source of most illegal im-

migration -- than any previous US leader.

Obama, seeking a genuine second term legacy achievement, strongly supports the Senate bill to reform immigration that passed last year which offers a path to eventual citizenship for 11 million illegal immigrants.

The bill also includes tighter border monitoring, an overhauled work visa program and other key reforms.

Obama has been careful not to rule out less sweeping House Republican plans, and has even signaled a willingness to negotiate on his core principle of a path to citizenship.

But many observers believe that passing an immigration bill could be tough in this mid-term congressional election year.

Many conservative lawmakers view the idea of a path to citizenship as tantamount to amnesty -- and fear a backlash from their own Republican grass roots on the issue.

Republican Senate minority leader Mitch McConnell dealt a blow to hopes of immigration reform earlier this week when he also cast doubt on the prospects for this year.

But the White House insists that it remains "optimistic" for progress.



TV's 'Dr House' helps solve real-life medical mystery

PARIS (AFP) - For a year, the patient suffered from a range of worsening symptoms that left doctors stumped.

His heart started failing, his sight and hearing deteriorated, he suffered from acid reflux, swollen lymph nodes and an inexplicable fever. The outlook was grim.

Only Dr Gregory House, TV's misfit medical genius, could solve the mystery: the cause was an eroded prosthetic hip.

But this time the sleuthing did not happen on the small screen but in real life, The Lancet reported on Friday.

Thanks to an episode in "House", doctors at a German clinic were able to save a 55-year-old man who was in a serious and baffling decline.

The patient had been referred to Marburg's Centre for Undiagnosed Diseases in May 2012.

Poring over his medical history, the team found a past that was uneventful... apart from a double hip replacement.

They pounced on this detail. Recalling an episode from the seventh season of "House", the team began to suspect cobalt poisoning, probably from a worn hip implant.

Scans and blood tests confirmed the suspicion and the patient soon had his metal prosthesis replaced by a ceramic one.

"Shortly after the hip replacement, the patient's plasma (blood) cobalt and chromium concentrations decreased and the patient stabilised and recovered slightly," the case report said.

By July last year, 14 months after the operation, his heart function improved to 40 percent, the fever was gone and so was the acid reflux. The patient had by then received a defibrillator to aid his damaged heart.

His hearing and vision, unfortunately, recovered only slightly, said the report.

Not only entertaining, also

life-saving

"It was helpful for me that I was aware about the cobalt problems thanks to Dr House," team leader Juergen Schaefer told AFP, while stressing that other diagnostic tools were brought into play as well.

"All this demonstrates nicely that well-performed entertainment is not only able to entertain and educate, but also to save lives."

"House" is the story of a grumpy and cynical diagnostician who specialises in solving medical mysteries that other doctors cannot crack.

He is based on Sherlock Holmes, whose character was in turn inspired by real-life 19th century Scottish doctor Joseph Bell who, like House, used deductive reasoning as a diagnostic tool.

Schaefer said he was a fan of the TV show and had been using episodes from the series, based on real cases, as part of his lectures for several years now, "to attract my students' attention for rare or unusual diseases".

He has been dubbed the "German Dr House" by colleagues, students and the media.

Schaefer said his centre has treated at least five other patients with cobalt poisoning, though with less severe symptoms.

The case report added that cobalt poisoning in hip replacement patients was "an increasingly recognised and life-threatening problem".

Erosion of a replacement hip, often the result of a botched operation or dodgy prosthesis, can release toxic metals into the blood stream.

Cases of heart failure as a result of cobalt poisoning are rare and have in the past mainly been observed in steel workers and heavy consumers of a specific Quebec beer that was found in the 1960s to have had cobalt sulfate added for foam stability.



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Women face higher risk of stroke than men

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Women face a higher risk of stroke than men, particularly due to high blood pressure disorders in pregnancy and other hormonal factors, US doctors said.

The warning was contained in new guidelines for preventing stroke, issued by the American Heart Association and for the first time aimed specifically at women, who are more likely to die of strokes than men.

Women's unique vulnerabilities include common pregnancy complications, use of birth control pills, hormone replacement therapy, migraines and heart problems, said the guidelines.

"If you are a woman, you share many of the same risk factors for stroke with men," said Cheryl Bushnell, author of the new scientific statement published in the American Heart Association journal Stroke.

Those shared risks include high blood pressure, smoking and diabetes.

"But your risk is also influenced by hormones, reproductive health, pregnancy,



have experienced preeclampsia, a dangerous, high blood pressure pregnancy condition which can double a woman's stroke risk.

Doctors should consider prescribing low dose aspirin or other medications as needed to women who ever had high blood pressure during pregnancy.

Women of reproductive age should be screened for high blood pressure before being given birth control pills, and should be reminded not to smoke.

Older women should be screened for heart beat irregularities known as atrial fibrillation, as this can boost a woman's risk of stroke fivefold after age 75.

Nearly 800,000 strokes occur each year in the United States. More than half are among women, and 60 percent of stroke deaths occur in women.

childbirth and other sex-related factors," said Bushnell, a neurologist and director of the Stroke Center at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in North Carolina.

The guidelines give primary care doctors and obstetrician-gynecologists recommendations on how best to screen and treat women at risk for stroke.

They include rigorous evaluation of any women who

Heroin to fight pain



ST. JOHNSBURY (AFP): Drugs are prepared to shoot intravenously by a user addicted to heroin yesterday in St. Johnsbury Vermont. Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin recently devoted his entire State of the State speech to the scourge of heroin. Heroin and other opiates have begun to devastate many communities in the Northeast and Midwest leading to a surge in fatal overdoses in a number of states. As prescription painkillers, such as the synthetic opiate OxyContin, become increasingly expensive and regulated, more and more Americans are turning to heroin to fight pain or to get high. Heroin, which has experienced a surge in production in places such as Afghanistan and parts of Central America, has a relatively inexpensive street price and provides a more powerful affect on the user. New York City police are currently investigating the death of the actor Philip Seymour Hoffman who was found dead last Sunday with a needle in his arm.

30 Minutes a Day Keeps Fat Away

Get Your Minimum Daily Requirement of Walking

The minimum daily requirement of exercise to prevent weight gain is 30 minutes a day of walking, or 12 miles a week of walking or running. A study of sedentary, overweight men and women (aged 40-65 years) showed they lost body fat and weight when they walked or ran 12 miles a week during an 8-month study, without changing their diet. A control group of non-exercisers all gained weight and fat during the 8-month study.

The study shows the effects of exercise without dieting in maintaining body weight and reducing risk of major illness.

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Pope's Harley sells to mystery buyer for 210,000 euros

PARIS (AFP) - A Harley-Davidson motorbike that briefly belonged to Pope Francis was sold to a mystery European buyer for 210,000 euros (\$285,800) at a high-profile auction in Paris.

"It's a record for a post-vintage motorbike, from the 21st century," said Bonhams France, the auction house. Including fees, the unidentified buyer paid a total of 241,500 euros to obtain the bike.

The US motorbike maker gave the 1,585cc Dyna Super Glide to the pope in June to mark the brand's 110th anniversary, and while the 77-year-old never rode it, he signed it before donating it to Roman Catholic charity Caritas Roma.

The funds from the sale will go towards the restoration of the charity's hostel and soup kitchen at Rome's Termini railway station.

A jacket that was also given to the pope by Harley-Davidson was snapped up for 57,500 euros, including fees.

The bike is on show at the Grand Palais in Paris -- where the auction took place -- among hundreds of other iconic vehicles such as Rolls-Royces and Cadillacs.

According to Bonhams, Pope Francis has another Harley-Davidson, although the famously humble pontiff is more of a fan of buses.

He opted to ride one the day after his election last year instead of taking a limousine, and regularly used them in his homeland Argentina instead of taxis.

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ABBA enter Swedish Music Hall of Fame

STOCKHOLM (AFP) - Legendary Swedish pop band ABBA on Thursday were among the 12 first artists to join the Swedish Music Hall of Fame, which celebrates the country's rich pop tradition.

"I think it's a nice thing to do, to create a Swedish Music Hall of Fame," 67-year-old former ABBA member Benny Andersson told AFP.

"Through the years, there were so many very influential good songwriters and artists and I think it's a good thing to make a collection of all of

them."

As expected, the most famous Swedish band of all times eclipsed all other artists on the list, such as Roxette or metal band Entombed.

"We would probably be the only band that you know about. Maybe Roxette...otherwise, it's sort of a Swedish thing," Andersson said, showing pride in keeping his celebrity status 32 years after the group broke up.

"After all this time, I'm very grateful, proud and surprised," he said.



Pop pioneers ABBA sold 375 million records worldwide since its first recording in 1972.

The first 12 artists, including jazz singer Monica Zetterlund (1937-2005) and Dutch-born singer-songwriter Cornelis

Vreeswijk (1937-1987), were chosen by a jury of four music experts.

The Swedish Music Hall of Fame will open to the public on March 20 in the same building as the ABBA museum, which has received more than 275,000 visitors since it opened in May 2013.

Benny Andersson, member of Swedish pop group ABBA, poses in between Eva Dahlgren (L) and Ulf Dageby (R)

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US farmers, food interests unite against GMO labeling

FOOD LABELING AND WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

WHAT? Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are organisms in which the genetic material (DNA) has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally.

WHY? GM foods are developed because the perceived advantage is meant to translate into a product with a lower price, greater benefit (durability or nutritional value) or both.

RISKS? GMOs have not been proven safe. The long term consequences of GMOs on our health and environment have not been adequately investigated.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US farmers joined with the food industry to launch a united front against labeling of genetically modified products, amid mounting consumer pressure and an ongoing trade dispute with China.

More than half of US states introduced bills aimed at requiring GMO labeling last year, in a country where 80 percent of the food contains ingredients that were made with genetically modified organisms.

While only two states have passed such measures, and none have yet implemented any labeling requirements, farmers are concerned about the prospect.

"If each state had a different label requirement, our farmers just couldn't adapt to that and really economically grow safe, affordable food," said Ray Gaesser, president of the American Soybean Association, which represents 600,000 US farmers.

Gaesser estimated that any new state-by-state labeling laws would hike prices 15 to 30 percent.

Stressing the lack of scientific evidence that GMOs cause harm, Gaesser joined with corn farmers, bakers,

restaurants, fisheries, animal feed and grocery store groups in forming the 30-member Coalition for Safe Affordable Food.

The umbrella group aims to "avoid unnecessary and confusing 50-state patchwork of GMO labeling laws," said Pamela Bailey, president and CEO of the Grocery Manufacturers Association.

Instead, members are calling for a federal solution that would only mandate GMO labeling "if the FDA, our nation's foremost food safety authority, determines that there is a health or safety risk," she told reporters.

"Up until now, (the) FDA has said GMO technology is safe and it would be misleading to mandate a label on a GM product," Bailey said.

Recognizing that some consumers want to know more about what is in the foods they eat, Bailey asked the FDA "to outline clear labeling standards that companies can use voluntarily."

Corn, soybeans and sugar beets have been genetically modified in the United States for many years, and farmers say these altered seeds are more resilient against pests and harsh weather.

Wheat is the only major crop that has not gained approval for genetic modification, as the prospect of GMO wheat faces resistance from foreign exporters, particularly in Asia.

When it comes to corn, which is typically accepted abroad in GMO form, an ongoing dispute with China remains unresolved and is dampening global trade.

China has blocked or canceled hundreds of thousands of tons of a

certain strain of GMO corn produced in the United States since late last year, according to the US Department of Agriculture.

"If there was any indication that GMO ingredients were not safe, we would not be using them," said Martin Barbre, president of the National Corn Growers Association.

GMO technology "has been used safely in our food supply for 20 years," said Bailey, insisting that "efforts to label these foods otherwise are often the product of misinformation."

Consumer pressure in the United States is a key driver of state ballot initiatives that aim to label GMO foods, and health advocacy groups such as the Center for Food Safety have said to expect more in the year ahead.

California narrowly rejected a 2012 initiative to require GMO labeling, which was fought with tens of millions of dollars in advertising from corporate giants including DuPont, Monsanto, Syngenta, Kraft, Coca-Cola and Pepsi.

A New York Times poll last year found that 93 percent of Americans would like to know if their foods contain GMO ingredients.

BRIEFS:



Twitter says government info requests on the rise -

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Government requests for Twitter user information is on the rise, the messaging service said as it released figures while pressing for more transparency. Twitter said it got 833 information requests in the United States in the last six months of 2013, including 100 "emergency" requests. These affected some 1,300 accounts, and Twitter provided some information in 69 percent of these cases, the company said in its "transparency report." The global total was 1,410 requests, up from 849 in its first report in early 2012.



Google Chromebox aims at conference room -

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Google took aim at office meeting rooms with the release of a Chromebox for videoconferencing. The first model box comes with a high-definition camera and a speaker with a microphone. A monitor must be provided. There is an annual management fee of \$250 for the videoconferencing setup. As many as 15 people can take part in a Chromebox video conference using smartphones, tablets, laptops or other Internet linked computers. Google has been working to expand its business beyond online search and into businesses with a productivity and collaboration software offered as services in the Internet cloud. The California technology titan also continues to promote Chrome-powered boxes and laptops that push computing power to servers in Google data centers.

NY Times sees ad declines, boosts subscribers -

NEW YORK (AFP) - The New York Times Co. said core earnings in the past quarter were lifted by gains in online subscriptions, helping offset declines in print and digital ad revenues. The company said paid subscribers to digital-only subscription packages rose 19 percent from a year earlier to 760,000 as of the end of the fourth quarter and brought in \$39.1 million in the final three months of the year.

Chicago auto show



CHICAGO (AFP) - Mercedes-Benz displays their 2015 SLS AMG GT Final Edition at the Chicago Auto Show on Friday in Chicago, Illinois. Only 350 of the 583-horsepower 6.3-liter V8 cars will be built. The show, which is oldest and largest in the nation, will be open to the public February 8 through February 17.



Kia introduces the Niro Concept vehicle at the Chicago Auto Show on Friday.



Kia introduces the Soul EV at the Chicago Auto Show

US borrowing capped, raising threat of debt default

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Treasury said Friday it was launching "extraordinary" money management procedures to keep paying its bills as its ability to borrow to finance the country's deficit was capped.

The official debt ceiling was to be reinstated late Friday at the current borrowing level -- nearly \$17.3 trillion -- as Congress and the White House squared off in the newest battle over the cap that could, for the fourth time in three years, push the US close to a default.

In a letter, Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew told John Boehner, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, that "it would be a mistake to wait until the last possible minute" to raise the ceiling.

Special measures to keep up

with the government's obligations would only last three weeks, he said.

"We are not confident that the extraordinary measures will last beyond Thursday, February 27," Lew said.

"If Treasury has insufficient cash on hand, it would be impossible for our nation to meet all of its obligations for the first time in history."

The obligations include everything from ongoing operations to salaries and pensions to servicing the country's debt load.

Boehner's Republican Party has sought to tie budget measures to any legislation raising the debt ceiling, but President Barack Obama has repeatedly said he would not accept any conditions for an increase.

The government has a

chronic budget deficit, projected at \$500 billion this year, which it needs to fund through borrowing.

On previous showdowns over the debt ceiling, businesses and investors became more cautious and US bond yields rose amid worry that the country could be forced to default on its debt.

The borrowing ceiling was last lifted in October, after a debt and budget fight that forced the temporary shutdown of much of the government.

In a similar debt ceiling showdown in August 2011, Standard & Poor's dealt the country its first-ever credit rating downgrade, citing the uncertainty created by repeated budget and borrowing battles over policy making.

Oil prices hit 2014 peaks after mixed US jobs report

NEW YORK (AFP) - Oil prices rallied sharply Friday as the market shrugged off a disappointing US jobs report, finding upbeat details in the report suggesting modest economic growth.

The benchmark US futures contract, West Texas Intermediate for delivery in March, leaped \$2.04, or 2.1 percent, to close at \$99.88 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Brent North Sea crude for March gained \$2.69, or 2.5 percent, to settle at \$109.57 a barrel on London's Intercontinental Exchange.

Both futures contracts closed at their highest levels

of the year to date. Earlier in the day the US contract crossed above the psychological level of \$100.

The rally came after the Labor Department, for the second month in a row, reported disappointing jobs growth numbers for the world's largest consumer of crude oil.

The US economy added only 113,000 jobs in January, after a paltry 75,000 in December, according to the department's survey of business establishments. That was well below analyst expectations of 175,000.

But a separate household survey showed the unemployment rate dropped for the third consecutive month, to 6.6 percent from 6.7 percent in De-

cember, driven down by job growth of 638,000.

And the labor force participation rate improved, though still at a historically low level, to 63.0 percent.

The oil and equities markets rose sharply as investors digested the jobs data.

"Today's jobs report delivers neither encouragement nor discouragement. It falls right smack in the middle of a slow recovery trend with relatively flat labor income," said David Kotok of Cumberland Advisors.

Kotok said the slow-growing trend means the Federal Reserve will proceed slowly with the tapering of its massive stimulus that began in January.

Lackluster US job report sends dollar lower vs euro

NEW YORK (AFP) - A disappointing US jobs report for January sent the dollar lower

against the euro Friday, but both headed higher against the yen.

The US report, which showed only 113,000 jobs were added last month against expectations of some 175,000, sparked concerns of a slump in the economy, coming after dismal numbers in December.

That raised speculation that the Federal Reserve could slow the pace of its program to reduce and eventually end its huge bond-buying stimulus program that has pumped easy money into the US and global economy for three years.

At 2200 GMT the euro was at \$1.3637, up from \$1.3591 late Thursday, capping a week

of steady gains against the greenback.

The dollar also ceded ground to the British pound on the news, the pound moving to \$1.6407 from \$1.6323.

Friday's US jobs disappointment contrasted with the European Central Bank's holding firm on its interest rate policy Thursday, with bank head Mario Draghi brushing off widespread talk of a deflation threat.

David Song of DailyFX said the dollar faces growing speculation that Federal Reserve policy makers "may take a less-aggressive approach in normalizing monetary policy" after the poor jobs numbers.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

V	I	C	E	V	E	N	T	C	B	S
A	S	H	V	I	G	O	R	L	E	I
T	I	E	A	N	G	R	Y	O	N	T
S	T	R	O	D	E	T	O	N	G	S
R	E	G	H	U	E					
A	N	A	G	R	A	M	T	W	I	S
L	E	D	R	A	F	D	U	D		
S	T	A	M	P	P	A	T	R	O	N
B	R	O	I	L	M	I	S	S	A	L
Z	E	E	S	A	R	A	N	T	U	E
I	A	N	M	R	B	I	G	E	T	A
P	R	O	S	A	I	L	S	M	O	P



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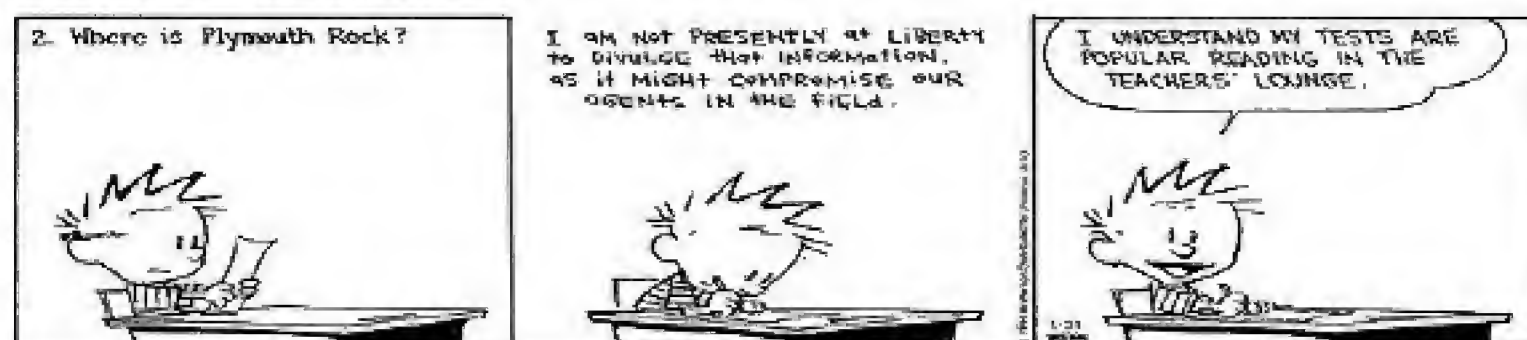
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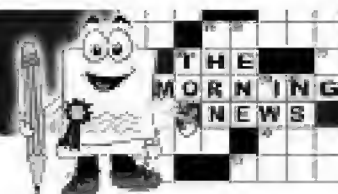
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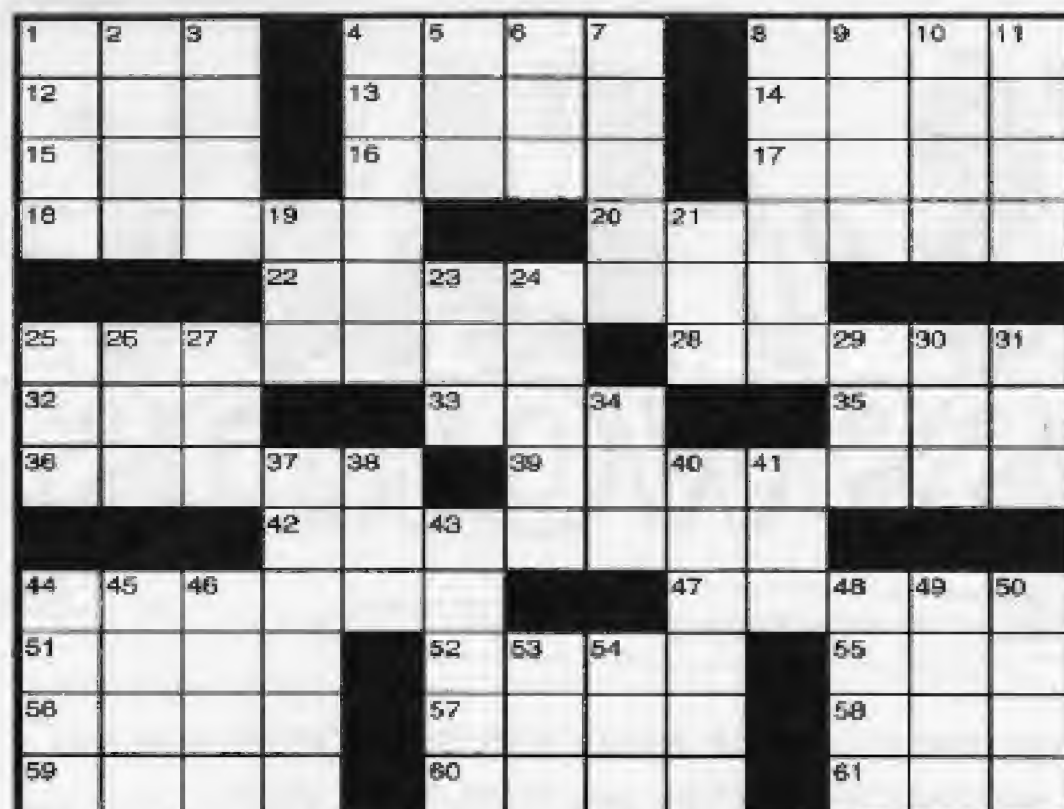
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23. Pres. Coolidge
24. "___ way..." (2 wds.)
25. Brylcreem unit
26. Stuck ___ rut (2 wds.)
27. Easy and Main (abbr.)
29. "Honest" President
30. Actress Myrna
31. Alkaline material
34. Mom's counterpart
37. Hankerings
38. "Get 'em, Fido!"
40. Covered in trees
41. Col. Sanders's outfit
43. Ambles aimlessly
44. Animal rights gp.
45. Saw, e.g.
46. Sch. for officers
48. Inmates
49. Author Leon
50. Russo of "Big Trouble"
53. Actress ___ West
54. Country lodge

- ACROSS**
1. Boulder, e.g.
4. Onassis and others
8. Heidi of "Project Runway"
12. Lumberjack's need
13. Where Lima is
14. Buzz Aldrin's gp.
15. Ignited
16. Elbow action
17. Frosts a cake
18. Magazine copy
20. "Reader's ___"
22. Shake-spearean tragedy
25. Show
28. ___ for time
32. Picnic pest
33. 1970s midsize Ford
35. Cub scout, for example
36. Groundwork
39. Iowa native
42. Bored with (2 wds.)
44. Exterior plaster
47. Take place
51. A Spice Girl
52. Between
55. Lode load
56. ___ what may
57. Lion's headpiece
58. Author Anaïs ___
59. Poetic cry
60. Dispatch
61. Compass point (abbr.)
- DOWN**
1. Painter Salvador
2. WWII group
3. '69 World Series stars
4. Fund drive
5. Old-time auto
6. Bother
7. Napped leather
8. ___ in shining armor
9. Negligee trim
10. Utilizes
11. Sail holder
19. Ref's cousin
21. "Baby ___ You"

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Sudoku



SOLUTION

9	2	6	8	1	5	1	4	7
6	4	9	1	5	8	2	7	3
8	5	1	2	7	4	9	3	6
1	8	2	9	7	6	4	5	3
4	8	5	6	2	1	7	9	3
7	6	1	4	9	2	5	8	3
6	6	4	9	8	7	2	1	5
2	7	8	4	5	1	9	6	3
5	1	9	7	2	6	8	4	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

O Condominiums

A small, exclusive boutique condo resort tailored to your taste



Aruba's most successful developers of secure, superior communities for both the permanent and part time resident market, will soon break ground on what they consider their most exclusive project to date. Known for 16 years of unmatched quality and service, the Cas Bon people are proud to unveil their new pet

project: O Condominiums. This is the same company which developed the innovative Gold Coast Villas community in Malmok.

Renowned for reliable construction, developers of O Condominiums consider the boutique community will be the "jewel in the crown" of the nine projects they have successfully completed and

maintain. It is only three stories and twenty luxurious units, of which 14 will be oceanfront, the remainder, ocean view. Sizes range from one bedroom condominiums with a bath and a half to three-bedrooms, each bedroom with its own bath, and an additional guest half/bath. The designs include a family entertainment room that will

be specially fitted with electronic and Internet connections and outlets enabling a state-of-the-art-home theater. An important aspect of this singular facility is owners have various options to customize kitchens and fixtures to their particular tastes and standards.

Each apartment sports an extremely spacious 35 square meter covered terrace overlooking the sea. Windows will be double-paned and doors

have weather stripping to insure less cost on air-conditioning, which is integrated into construction. Homeowners will have input into the finishing they prefer in the kitchen and other rooms, to customize your condominium to your taste. Public amenities will include an elegant pool deck, concierge

services, lounge area, BBQ station, fitness room, assigned parking, additional outside storage for bicycles and personal items, and 24-hour security. A quiet, secluded section of Eagle beach is only a few steps from the front door.

O Condominiums officially opened the doors of their sales office onsite at Eagle Beach on December 24. Interested parties can inspect the project in a spacious plot right next to the gourmet Screaming Eagle restaurant. The project is directed towards discerning clients seeking a top quality property on Aruba in an ideal, tranquil, beachfront location. Prospective property owners will find the Cas Bon people enjoy an exceptional reputation on Aruba for excellence and reliability.

Contact the sales office at 297-732-0000/ 297-287-5300 or visit their website: <http://www.o-eaglebeach.aruba.com>

Discover authentic Aruban cuisine at *The Queen's*



Enjoy a true taste of Aruba without having to travel in the charming surroundings of The Queen's Restaurant in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall. Your host, Varella Innocencia has brought her very popular Oranjestad eatery to Palm Beach, showcasing authentic local cuisine only a short walk away from the major resorts.

The "hipper" and elegant new digs offer beautiful views, but Mama Luisa's magical touch in the kitchen is what

first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. She can be counted on to be conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations. As Varella says, "My mom loves and lives to cook. Even when she is not at work in the restaurant, she is experimenting with new dishes all day at home."

She is the Queen of the Kitchen."

Be sure to try Luisa's acclaimed "Carni Stoba di Ma-

machi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," or their fresh, whole snapper, with Mama Luisa's delectable salsa criollo. Don't miss the specialty of the house, a favorite local delicacy, Keshi Yena - "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It is satisfying and particularly memorable. Regional side dishes and some of Mama's secret recipe prepara-

tion of banana hasa and creamy potatoes provide a deliciously picturesque meal.

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to go, reasonably priced and easily accessible. A full menu can be seen on their website, <http://www.thequeensaruba.com/>.

Mama Luisa hard at work in the kitchen

Aside from an extensive regular menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season, and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't be shy about asking for something that may not be on the menu, as they are always eager to please.

The Queen's is open daily from 3:00 pm - 11:00 pm, offering both indoor and outdoor dining. Telf: 5860606

Putin opens Sochi Games after stunning show

SOCHI (AFP) - President Vladimir Putin on Friday opened the Winter Olympics Games in Sochi that are inextricably linked with his name, after a stunning ceremony where Russia sought to convince the world it is a worthy host.

The high-octane ceremony at the 40,000 capacity Fisht stadium on the Black Sea got off to a rocky start when one of five illuminated snowflakes which were supposed to morph into the Olympic rings failed to appear, leaving an embarrassing set of just four rings.

But thereafter the show charmed and stunned in equal measure, taking hundreds of millions of spectators around the world on a lightning tour of Russian history and culture guided by a young girl named Lyubov (Love).

In a nod towards Russia's proud sporting past, the Olympic cauldron was lit by two triple gold-winning Soviet winter sports icons -- figure skater Irina Rodnina and ice hockey legend Vladislav Tretyak -- as fireworks rained into the sky.

The flame had been brought into the stadium by US-based Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova and the final relay included Olympic rhythmic gymnastics champion Alina Kabayeva who has been rumoured in some quarters to be Putin's lover.

Russia is under huge pressure to organise a glitch-free Games after a build-up dogged by controversies over gay rights, construction delays and security.

There were no signs of such tension in Sochi as the teams entered the stadium -- led by tradition by Olympic Games founder Greece -- to the sound of pumping dance house music in an effort to dynamise the procession.

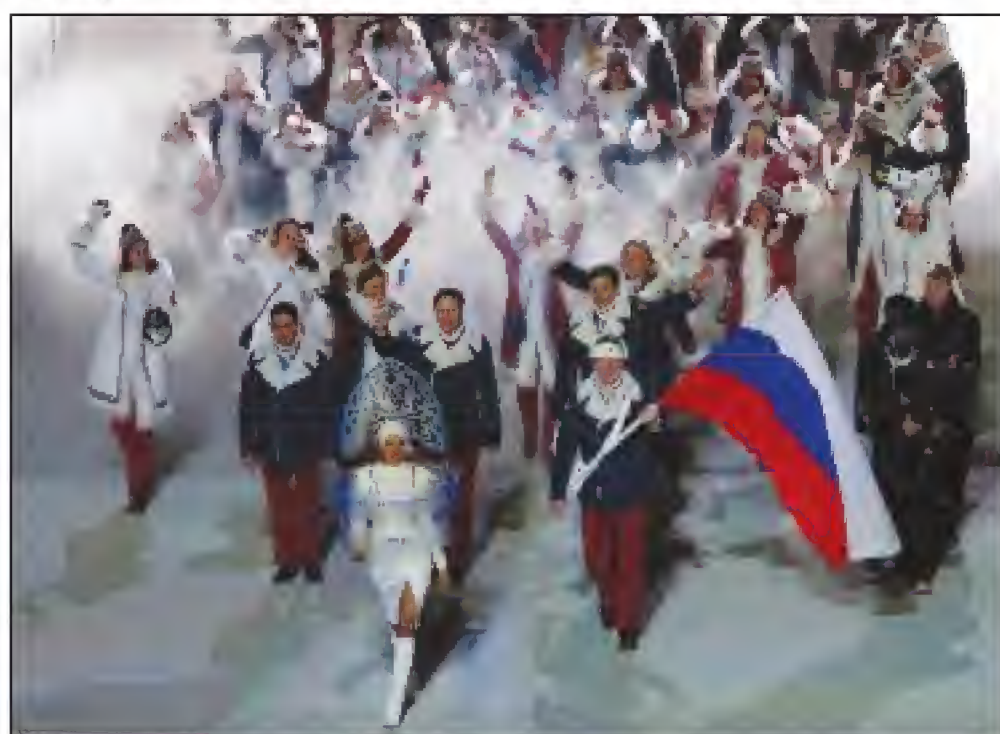
The Russian team won huge cheers as they entered to the song "Nas Ne Dogonyat" ("Not Gonna Get Us") by female pop duo Tatu known for their raunchy lesbian-tinged pop videos.

Although both girls are heterosexual, their involvement could be seen as a coded riposte to Western allegations that Russia is intolerant of homosexuality.

In line with Olympic protocol, Putin, who has championed the drive to host the Olympics in Sochi since before the successful bid in 2007, made no speech save declaring the Games open.



Irina Rodnina and Vladislav Tretyak light the Olympic cauldron during the opening ceremony of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi



Putin welcomed more than 40 other heads of state and leaders for the ceremony, including UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and embattled Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich.

However US President Barack Obama as well as the leaders of key EU states Britain, France, and Germany are conspicuous by their absence, a move seen by many as a snub over Russia's now notorious anti-gay law.

IOC President Thomas Bach made an impassioned call for politicians to stay out of sports, saying "have the courage to address your disagreements in political dialogue and not on the back of your athletes."

Some 3,500 fireworks weighing a total of 22.5 tonnes were set off in the course of the ceremony which involved some 3,000 performers and 2,000 volunteers.

The ceremony aimed to tell the story of Russia's history -- from ancient times through the imperial era and the revolution -- in a way comprehensive and exciting for both Russians and foreigners.

The ceremony included a new ballet based on the ball scene from Tolstoy's novel "War and Peace" performed by dance stars including Svetlana

Zakharova of the Bolshoi Ballet and the gravity defying superstar Ivan Vashev.

Burly shaven-headed heavyweight boxer Nikolai Valuev played the role of a giant but friendly Soviet policeman Uncle Styopa in an episode that sought to portray 1960s USSR as a jazzy and stylish haven for lovers.

For many older Russians, the ceremony may bring a pang of nostalgia for the 1980 Moscow Summer Games in the Soviet era, which are still remembered fondly, in particular for the cute mascot Misha the bear.

But it remains to be seen whether the Sochi opening ceremony will shift the cloud of controversy that has hung over the Games, the most expensive in history with an estimated price tag of \$50 billion.

In a symbolic gesture, Google marked the Winter Games by flying the gay flag Thursday in a search page Doodle that linked to a call for equality in the Olympic Charter.

Security concerns had already intensified as the United States announced a temporary ban on liquids and gels in hand luggage on Russia-bound flights, following a warning that militants could stuff explosives into toothpaste.



Ballet dancers Danila Korsuntsev and Svetlana Zakharova perform during the Opening Ceremony of the Sochi Winter Olympics.



The Sochi Olympic mascots perform during the Opening Ceremony.




Artists perform during the Opening Ceremony of the Sochi Winter Olympics.



Performers sing as the Olympic rings are presented during the Opening Ceremony of the Sochi Winter Olympics at the Fisht Olympic Stadium

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Robin Nelisse to offer Feyenoord Football Camp in Aruba

ORANJESTAD - Are you between 6 and 16 years of age? Are you a football lover and want to practice the sport of football at a higher level? Now is your golden opportunity!

On April 21st to 25th, the Caribbean Sports Foundation of former professional footballer Robin Nelisse will be organizing a tremendous football camp in Aruba together with top-club professionals from Holland, Feyenoord of Rotterdam. Former professional footballer Robin Nelisse is of Aruban parents. He has, however, always played in different professional clubs in Europe, such as AZ, Utrecht, Salzburg (Austria) and Feyenoord. Nelisse has also played with the Antilles selection some years ago.

In the past, many footballers have developed into great

players due to the football camps offered by the Caribbean Sports Foundation and Feyenoord. This is because of the high caliber of training that one receives by former professionals who have played football in Holland. Two years ago the Caribbean Sports Foundation and Feyenoord had such a camp in Curacao, which received a very high percentage of players. Three weeks ago they had one in Cuba, which was also very successful.

Because of some local sponsors, the cost for attending this camp is only Fls. 400 per person. This fee will include uniform, and a football from Feyenoord. They will take no more than 150 kids at the camp. The children will be divided 75 in the morning and 75 children in the afternoon.

The training will take place at the Guillermo Trinidad Complex in Dakota. For 50 children of limited resources to participate will be free. The royalties received from the camp will be donated to a social cause in the community.

Finally, some great news! They will offer the best player who excels during this football camp, a one week internship at the Feyenoord Club. If this player is really good, he may also become a member of the Feyenoord Club!

If you are between 6 and 16 years of age, you may register and become part of this unique opportunity.

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Go to: www.caribbeansportsfoundation.com or call Cel. 592-5235. You can also mail at info@caribbeansportsfoundation.com.

Great Success... that is what the Copa Betico Croes - 2014 Andicuri Classics was!



ORANJESTAD - Last week, the Aruba Body board Association organized their first championship of body board and surf at the Andicuri beach. ...and, you guessed it, the Copa Betico Croes - 2014 Andicuri Classics was a whopping success!

During the weekend the sea was also very much in their favor. There were waves as high as 4 to 6 feet for the athletes to compete. The competition between categories was very fierce making the job of the judges very difficult. The participating categories were, among others: body board beginner, body board junior, body board women, body board open, drop knee and surf open.

The final results of the Copa Betico Croes - 2014 Andicuri Classics:

Beginners: 1. Aaron Angela 2. Jarred de Vries 3. Jaheim Stamper 4. Arthur la Mour

Junior: 1. Joshua Kelly 2. Jayfrem Croes 3. Mourit van Dinter 4. Genaro Roga

Ladies: 1. Ebrina Curet 2. Lopez Ilienne 3. Mirienne

Rosario 4. Fella de Vries

Dropknee: 1. Jeremy Loeftok 2. Roduard Ferrier 3. Jayfrem Croes 4. Lenn Hernandez

Bodyboard Open: 1. Chaim Alvares 2. Joshua Kelly 3. Naygel Kelly 4. Jeremy Loeftok

Surf Open: 1. Max Dedekind 2. Xenon Lacle 3. Etienne Rudel 4. Cado De Lanoy

ABA is very grateful for their sponsors and for all those who helped ABA organized this competition, to mention: ABA-Crew, OTIS elevators, Bula Surf Shop, Setar NV, Kock Optica, Lotto pa Deporte, CMB, Wema, IBISA, Proserr Aruba, Elite Production, Playa Liquor, Mio, 2nine-seven, Albo, DOW, Rush, Sign-a-Rama, Valero Santa Cruz and Frasa Trading.

Thanks also to Armando Goedgedrag, Eldrick Pontilius, Jonathan Colina and Ricardo Vries for their coverage of the event and their many photos. Thanks to Rudy Croes, Bon Santo, Nick Thijsen, Pem Croes and Angelo Kelly.

Mario Lobo and Alfred Leong are victors in Table Tennis

ORANJESTAD - In connection with the Betico Day celebrations, the Table Tennis federation, the Aruba Table Tennis Association, organized a tournament. This annual Copa Betico Croes tournament was played in the Centro Deportivo Betico Croes in Santa Cruz. The competition lasted two days with different categories participating. After a long battle, the winners were announced. The final results of the tournament for the Copa Betico Croes are:

A-class:

1. Mario Lobo
2. Andy Gomes
3. Remy de Lange

U10

1. Cheng Ho
2. Mikayla Mathilda
3. Robert Dirksen

U12

1. Jeandry Mathilda
2. Sjoerd Guertsen
3. Sherman Hose

U14

1. Jonathan Paredes
2. Jean Claude Hoek
3. Jeandry Mathilda

U18

1. JeanPierre Helmeyer
2. Donald Yarzagaray
3. Michel Kelly

B-class:

1. Alfred Leong
2. James Letren
3. Wing Chow Leong

The Subsidy Commission of the Lotto pa Deporte is pleased to have subsidized this tournament in conjunction with the Betico Day celebrations. Congratulations to all the winners.!

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Obama: US would not spend \$50 billion on Olympics

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama said that the United States would not need to match the huge \$50 billion shelled out by Russia if it wanted to host another Olympic Games.

The massive operation to transform the Black Sea resort of Sochi for the Winter Games, which opened on Friday, has been plagued by cost overruns and accusations of corruption and cronyism in President Vladimir Putin's Russia.

But Obama said financial issues should not put Americans off from hosting more Games - partly because America would not need to splash so much cash.

While advising any city that bids for the Games to employ a good accountant, Obama said America knew how to put on a big event -- referring to last weekend's Super Bowl American football championship Game.



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Sochi Winter Olympics open



Netherlands' flag bearer, speed skater Jorien Ter Mors leads her national delegation during the Opening Ceremony of the Sochi Winter Olympics



RUSSIAN FEDERATION (AFP): (L-R) Russia's President Vladimir Putin, International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon attend the Opening Ceremony at the Fisht Olympic Stadium yesterday, February 7 2014.

The Sochi Winter Olympics, costing an estimated \$50 billion and with a build-up plagued by political controversy and security fears, were officially opened on Friday.

During a spectacular ceremony for the event which runs until February 23, President Vladimir Putin, who has been indelibly linked with the Games from bid to realisation, declared the showpiece on the shores of the Black Sea open.



Artists perform during the Opening Ceremony of the Sochi Winter Olympics at the Fisht Olympic Stadium in Sochi